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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 14.02.2026

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. India's Strategy on Artificial Intelligence

a. Artificial Intelligence as a Foundational Technology

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often compared to electricity in the twentieth century. Just as electricity transformed industries, governance systems, and everyday life, AI is now reshaping economic production, public administration, security structures, labour markets, and global power relations.

India's strategy is pragmatic and development-oriented. Instead of immediately competing with global powers in frontier research or massive foundational AI models, India has prioritised building enabling infrastructure, strengthening semiconductor manufacturing, creating a balanced regulatory framework, supporting employment transition, and promoting affordable AI solutions suited to developing economies.

This reflects a long-term understanding that sustainable technological leadership depends not only on breakthroughs, but on strong institutions, infrastructure, and skilled human capital.

b. The Three-Pillar Model of Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure

India's AI ecosystem rests on three interdependent pillars: compute capacity, datasets, and models. Together, these form the foundation for long-term growth.

i. Compute Capacity

Compute refers to high-performance computing infrastructure required to train and operate AI systems. Advanced AI models require enormous processing power, often supported by Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and specialised semiconductor chips.

Infrastructure Expansion

- India is expanding data centre capacity across multiple states.
- Renewable energy is increasingly being integrated to power such facilities.
- Environmental regulations continue to apply; ecological safeguards have not been diluted.

Without sufficient compute power, AI systems cannot scale. Therefore, infrastructure development logically precedes innovation.

ii. Datasets

AI systems learn patterns from data. The quality, diversity, and contextual relevance of datasets determine model performance.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure Advantage

- Platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, and CoWIN have generated large, structured public datasets.
- These datasets enable responsible innovation in sectors like fintech, governance, and welfare delivery.
- India's scale provides contextual richness and diversity.

Data Protection Framework

- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 governs personal data usage.
- It ensures privacy, consent, and accountability in data processing.
- Ethical governance prevents misuse while enabling innovation.

Data is often described as the "new oil," but unlike oil, it must be governed lawfully and ethically to prevent harm.

iii. Models

Models are trained AI systems capable of performing tasks such as language processing, image recognition, or predictive analytics.

Sector-Specific Focus

- India emphasises smaller, domain-specific models rather than massive general-purpose systems.
- Agriculture-based AI can assist farmers with crop advisories.
- Healthcare AI can improve diagnostics in rural regions.
- Governance models can enhance service delivery efficiency.

This practical, deployment-driven approach reduces technological dependence and strengthens technological sovereignty.

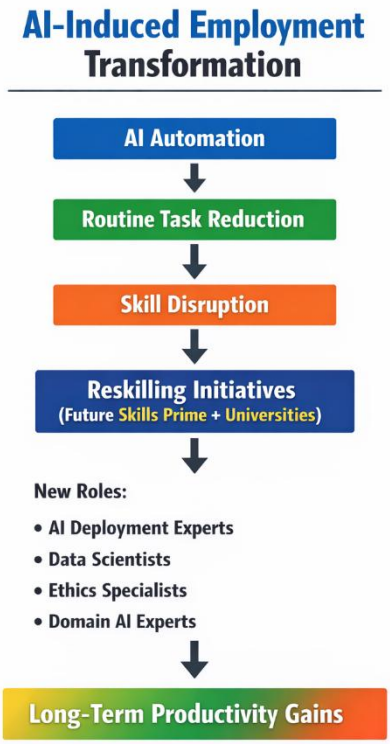
c. Artificial Intelligence and Governance

i. A Calibrated Regulatory Approach

India has not enacted a separate AI-specific law at the initial stage. Instead, it relies on existing frameworks such as:

- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
- Amendable IT Rules to address emerging risks

This calibrated approach avoids overregulation, which may stifle innovation, and underregulation, which may expose citizens to harm.



ii. Labelling of AI-Generated Content

Deepfakes and synthetic media pose risks to democratic discourse.

- Mandatory labelling of AI-generated content enhances transparency.
- It protects citizens' right to informed judgment.
- It builds digital trust and accountability.

iii. Faster Takedown Mechanisms

- Reduced timelines for removing unlawful content address misinformation risks.
- National security and public order concerns are prioritised.
- Safeguards must ensure compliance with Article 19 i.e., freedom of speech.

Thus, governance must balance innovation, fundamental rights, and security in a digital democracy.

Beyond regulation, AI's impact on employment requires careful attention.

d. Artificial Intelligence and Employment

Technological revolutions typically disrupt labour markets before stabilising them. AI may automate repetitive and routine tasks, including certain coding functions in the IT services sector.

i. Job Transformation Rather Than Elimination

- Emerging roles include AI deployment specialists and data scientists.
- Domain experts are required in agriculture, healthcare, and governance.
- AI ethics and regulatory experts are increasingly relevant.

ii. Reskilling Initiatives

- The Future Skills Prime initiative supports upskilling.
- AI is being integrated as a cross-disciplinary subject in universities.
- AI literacy is being embedded across disciplines.

The focus is on preparing the workforce for structural transformation rather than resisting technological change.

However, AI cannot function without a robust hardware base, making semiconductor strategy crucial.

e. Semiconductor and Electronics Strategy

AI depends on chips, sensors, and electronic components. Currently, India's domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing remains limited.

Increasing Domestic Value Addition

- The goal is to raise domestic value addition from roughly one-fifth to nearly two-fifths of production.
- The India Semiconductor Mission supports long-term capacity creation.
- Focus is on volume manufacturing before entering cutting-edge chip segments.

This gradual integration into global value chains enhances strategic autonomy and supply chain resilience.

At the same time, hardware expansion must align with environmental commitments.

f. Artificial Intelligence and Climate Commitments

Data centres consume significant electricity and water for cooling.

- Surplus renewable energy is being prioritised.
- Environmental safeguards remain intact.
- Procedural relaxations relate only to building norms, not ecological standards.

This aligns AI expansion with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and broader sustainable development principles.

Beyond domestic policy, AI is also a matter of global governance.

g. India in Global Artificial Intelligence Governance

India has emerged as an important voice in global AI discussions, particularly representing the Global South.

Bridging Developed and Developing Worlds

- Leadership in deployment-driven, affordable AI solutions.
- Promotion of inclusive digital public infrastructure models.
- Advocacy for ethical and development-centric AI governance.

India's strength lies in scalable, inclusive innovation rather than exclusive technological dominance.

h. Ethical Dimensions of Artificial Intelligence

AI intersects with core constitutional and moral values.

Core Ethical Principles

- Transparency – labelling of synthetic content.
- Accountability – grievance redressal and responsible takedown mechanisms.
- Privacy – protection under data protection law.
- Inclusiveness – focus on agriculture, healthcare, and welfare.
- Sustainability – renewable-powered infrastructure.

Ethical governance ensures that technological advancement remains aligned with human dignity and fundamental rights.

i. Challenges Ahead

- Rapid technological change may outpace regulation.
- Deepfakes threaten democratic integrity.
- Employment anxieties may intensify during transition periods.
- Energy demands may strain infrastructure.
- Fragmented global regulations may complicate international cooperation.

India must carefully balance innovation with oversight.

Conclusion

India's AI strategy is infrastructure-first, development-driven, and ethically calibrated. Rather than pursuing symbolic technological supremacy, the emphasis is on compute expansion, semiconductor capacity, regulatory balance, workforce preparation, and inclusive deployment.

If effectively implemented, India can emerge as a major AI deployment hub, a resilient electronics manufacturing base, and a responsible voice in global digital governance. In doing so, it can lead the Global South toward affordable, inclusive, and ethical AI innovation.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density.
To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

If you prefer a specific style (lists → paras, paras → tables, etc.), feel free to convert using any free LLM.

4. Monthly Current Affairs Release

The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.